

## Natural Foods Cooperative

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Docket number: #98N-1038  
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

4/12/99

Dear Sirs:

We are very concerned about the FDA considering removing or revising labeling of irradiated foods. Irradiation destroys vitamins as well as bacteria, insects and mold, and it is unclear what effect eating irradiated food will have on humans. Providing a less conspicuous label or using a euphemism such as "cold pasteurization" will provide a major disservice to the buying public. CONSUMERS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW what they are buying.

The meat industry needs to clean up slaughter houses, stop feeding of rendered animal protein to livestock, and the number of federal meat inspectors needs to be increased. These are all more productive measures to reduce food borne-illnesses than ionizing irradiation. Prevent the problem of contamination rather than trying to clean up after the fact!

The buying public is rapidly becoming better informed about our food supply. Please respect our right to know what we are buying!

Sincerely,

Tim Herms, General Manager

Kathy Barnes, Assistant Manager

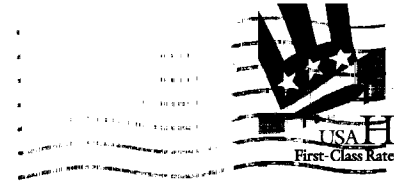
(On behalf of over one thousand two hundred member-owners)

98N-1038

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